

Date:

MAGENHEIMER—In Washington

Peorians Prominent and Numerous in Washington

By George Magenheimer, Associate Editor, Peoria Journal Star

Washington.—Anyone from Peoria or Central Illinois visiting a government office in Washington are apt to run into a former friend or neighbor because Peorians and former Peorians are both prominent and numerous in governmental posts here.

It would be impossible to list all of them because they are scattered far and wide over Washington. I have contacted a few of them and heard about numerous others, however.

The State department possibly employs the greatest number of former Peorians working here. Mrs. Virginia Coker Westfall is an international administrative officer in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs in the State department. She is a specialist in the budgetary problems of international organizations to which the United States makes contributions and attended the last session of the United Nations General assembly as an advisory on budgetary questions to the United States delegations.

Down the hall from Mrs. Westfall's office, John Wheelock works in the international organizations bureau, dealing with United Nations matters particularly concerning trusteeships in other nations. He has been connected with the State department for the last seven years.

ALSO AFFILIATED with the

State department is William L. Eagleton, Jr., who is assigned to the Syria-Lebanon political desk, particularly important now because of unrest in the Middle East.

Robert Welk and Miss Mary Gorman are employees of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Among others in high governmental positions are Edwin L. Covey, chief of the bankruptcy section of the administrative office of the U.S. courts, and Albert F. Slepert, executive officer of the National Institute of Health.

Lester (Pete) Leigh of Sparland recently has been promoted to midwest director of the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation committees. He formerly was Illinois state director for the same group. Mrs. Leigh is with him in Washington.

In the Justice department Russell Wharry is connected with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Kinsey James, an attorney in the criminal division of the tax section of the Department of Justice, has been prominent in the prosecution of several important tax cases.

In the congressional field, James Cromwell is the executive assistant of Rep. Robert Michel and Ralph Vinovich is on the staff of Senator Dirksen. Also working in Senator Dirksen's office for the summer are the Misses Ann Dooley and Marina Chiames. Dennis Little is working in the folding room of the House Office building while he is attending Georgetown University.

James Mills of Tiskilwa is employed in the economic section of the Small Business administration.

IF YOU DON'T happen to find a Peorian you know behind a governmental desk you may run into one on the street because a great many Peorians visit here, either on business or pleasure trips. Many of them drop into their congressman's office to pay a visit.

Among those signing the guest book in Rep. Michel's office since July 1 were the following Peorians:

Richard K. Meyer, Orvel M. Strickler and family, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Musgrove and daughter Lynne, Mr. and Mrs. Lester D. Bergsten and family, Mr. and Mrs. Percy L. Martin, Thomas M. Wantling, Mr. and Mrs. Morton Cantor, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cantor, and A. W. Buckingham and family.

Among others were Charles Otten of Washington, Carole Butkovich of Canton, Emily Root of Chillicothe and Mrs. Marjorie Keating of Alexis.

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